

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on either side.

HUMPTY DUMPTY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a nursery rhyme for the kids in the White House:

"Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall."

Mr. Speaker, back when this nursery rhyme was written, when kings were sovereign and people were subjects, it was a revolutionary concept to say that we the people are sovereign and that government officials are subject to the rule of law like all other citizens.

In America, the President is not a king. In America, no man has more rights because he has more money, more property or higher position. All are equal before the law. All are subject to the law. And when a man violates the law, he must answer to the law and not opinion polls.

"And all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again."

Today all the king's men are still trying to put Humpty back together in one piece, but falling and breaking the law has consequences in America even for a man who thinks he is above the law.

ON GAY STUDENT MURDER

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today compelled to speak out about the murder of 21-year-old Matthew Shepard. This college freshman was kidnapped, robbed, savagely beaten and then tied to a fence in near-freezing temperatures, left to die. And why? Because of his sexual orientation.

Unfortunately, Matthew is not alone. FBI statistics reveal that sexual orientation played a role in over 1,000 hate crimes recorded in 1996. This behavior cannot be tolerated. Legislation must be passed to increase the penalty for crimes committed because of sexual orientation.

Today, I join my voice with thousands of Americans who are outraged and who are calling for their elected leadership to do just that, just lead. As a cosponsor of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1998, I know that we have legislation that addresses this issue. We have a responsibility to pass this legislation. How can we do anything less?

Pass the bill and pass the bill now.

EDUCATION POP QUIZ

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a pop quiz. Parents, teachers and local educators, get out your number two pencils.

Question number one: Who do you trust more when it comes to educating your kids?

A. Yourselfes.

B. Washington bureaucrats.

Question number two: Who should decide whether your school district needs more teachers, more books, more computers or more funds for school construction?

A. Yourselfes.

B. Washington bureaucrats.

Question number three: Who has a better understanding of the individual needs of each student in your school?

A. Yourselfes.

B. Washington bureaucrats.

Okay. Time is up. Put down your pencils.

Mr. Speaker, parents, teachers and local educators, if you answered "Washington bureaucrats" to any of these questions, then the new \$1 billion Republican education plan for your classrooms is not for you.

EDUCATION FUNDING FROM
DEMOCRATIC PERSPECTIVE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I listened to my Republican colleague who just spoke and I have to say that he essentially is not indicating what has happened here in the last 2 years with the Republican effort to slash funding for public education, with the suggestion that we abolish the Department of Education and with the opposition to the two Democratic initiatives that we insist be included in this budget before we go home. That is, 100,000 new teachers across the country and money to modernize and upgrade our schools.

Democrats and President Clinton want the local school boards to make the decisions about who to hire and how to fix their buildings and how to go out to bond, but we also know that those school districts do not have the money, they do not have the local property taxes to pay for those new initiatives. They cannot hire extra teachers, they cannot renovate the school buildings because they do not have the dollars.

Democrats are pushing this Republican leadership kicking and screaming to the point over the next few days where hopefully we will have the funding available for those local school districts. Those local school districts will decide how the money is spent, but right now they do not have the money because this Republican leadership wants to slash education funding.

EDUCATION FUNDING FROM
REPUBLICAN PERSPECTIVE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, every year Republicans have been in charge we have increased spending on public schools. The gentleman knows this. But yet he says something differently.

The strength of America's future depends upon the education of our children, not the Washington bureaucracy. Republicans have offered an education plan that would send \$1.1 billion to our local school districts. This Republican education plan would empower our local communities to hire new teachers if they see fit, to reduce class sizes, to train special education teachers, to test teacher competency, purchase more books and supplies and allow for school repairs.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of this body on both sides of the aisle should agree with the intent of this plan. The main difference boils down to this: How should we deliver the money. The beauty of the Republican plan is local control. This means 100 percent of this money will go directly to the classrooms, I repeat, directly to the classrooms, not to the fat-cat Federal bureaucrats or hollow Federal programs.

Republicans believe education is best accomplished on a local level and decisions should be made on the local level.

PINK SLIPS TO AMERICAN WORKERS
WHILE WASHINGTON BAILS
OUT ASIA AND BRAZIL

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Merrill Lynch just cut 3,000 jobs. Ameritech cut 5,000 jobs. Raytheon cut 14,000 jobs. Motorola cut 15,000 jobs. AT&T cut 20,000 jobs. Boeing cut 30,000 jobs. Jobs lost. Jobs lost. And Japan, Russia, Brazil and Korea are destroying our steel industry and getting away with it. Illegal trade, getting away with it.

Unbelievable, ladies and gentlemen. While Washington is bailing out Asia and Brazil, American workers are getting the pink slips because of in fact illegal trade from people we are giving loans to.

Beam me up. We were not elected to the United Nations. We were elected to the Congress of the United States and Congress should take care of America first, before there is not a job left here.

I yield back the balance of any jobs left in this country.

REPUBLICANS WANT MORE
SPECIAL ED TEACHERS

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)